United Nations A/60/383

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 43
Culture of peace

Letter dated 21 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to your letter of 8 September 2005 to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, which was forwarded to its highest destination, I have the honour to furnish you with the attached copy of the Declaration adopted by the Informal Meeting of Leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, at United Nations Headquarters on 13 September 2005.

On behalf of the 15 participating Governments, we would like to request the issuance of the Declaration on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace as a document of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session under agenda item 43.

(*Signed*) Lauro L. **Baja**, Jr.
Permanent Representative

05-52513 (E) 041005

Declaration on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace

We, the leaders of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Gambia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, the Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, having met on 13 September 2005 in New York,

Welcome the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly and its outcomes, aimed at accomplishing the goals of the Millennium Declaration and strengthening the United Nations system to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, consistent with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

Reaffirm the inextricable nexus between development, peace and security and the protection of human rights, and recognize that a culture of peace can be attained, inter alia, through dialogue, the promotion of inclusion, equality, justice and tolerance, the enhancement of mutual understanding and respect, the advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the richness and wisdom found in all civilizations, the promotion of common ground among civilizations and religions in order to address common challenges threatening shared values, universal human rights and achievements of human society in various fields, and also the enhancement of respect for cultural diversity and cultural heritage;

Remain convinced that a culture of peace can be significantly enhanced by interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation, which further promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and peoples;

Urge that the conduct of interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation be guided by our common humanity and by the understanding that the rich diversity of cultures, civilizations and religions represents the collective heritage of humankind;

Uphold the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action, adopted by the General Assembly, and support UNESCO programmes and practical actions in this regard;

Invite the attention of the international community to intensify cooperation at the international, regional and national levels in the implementation of existing United Nations programmes for the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, enhanced by such initiatives as the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, Enlightened Moderation, the Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community, the Alliance of Civilizations, the Islam-Christianity Dialogue, and the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which are all mutually inclusive, reinforcing and interrelated;

Agree to meet five years hence to review the progress of our cooperation and invite our Ministers to meet annually at the margins of the general debate of the General Assembly to follow up on the progress of our work on the enhanced

promotion of a culture of peace through interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation;

Invite other Governments to adhere to this Declaration.

Adopted this 13th day of September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.